

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7368

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PINT SOPN PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: LITGAZ ON JEWISH MAY DAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK

1. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA (LITGAZ) MAY 11 LEADS ITS "INTERNATIONAL LIFE" SECTION WITH TWO ARTICLES RIDICULING THE JEWISH ANTI-SOVIET MAY DAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW YORK AND SCORNING WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL. MICHAEL MYERSON, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF "THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND POLITICAL REPRESSION," NOTES THAT AMONG NEW YORK DEMONSTRATORS WAS "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT", MARGARET CONSTANZA, WHO HAD ONLY RECENTLY RECEIVED A GROUP OF HOMOSEXUALS AT THE WHITE HOUSE. HE WRITES THAT U.S. ACTIVISTS WOULD DO BETTER TO WORRY ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CLOSER TO HOME, SUCH AS THE ALLEGED EXPULSION OF A JEWISH PROFESSOR FROM DAVIDSON COLLEGE'S FACULTY, AND THE TREATMENT OF THE "WILMINGTON TEN" AND BENJAMIN CHAVES. IN ANY CASE, HE CONCLUDES, INTERNATIONAL DETENTE IS MUCH MORE WORTHWHILE THAN THE "CAMPAIGN" FOR DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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2. WRITER GENRIKH GOFMAN, IN A REPORT FROM MOSCOW, PURSUES SOME OF THE

SAME THEMES, WHILE DERIDING CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD FORBIDDEN THE IMPORT OF MATZO FOR JEWISH NEW YEAR AND THAT JEWS HAD BEEN REFUSED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN THE RED ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II. LATTER CHARGE WAS REPORTEDLY MADE BY ISRAEL, AUTHRO OF A

BOOK: "JEWS IN THE USSR" WITH WHOM GOFMAN REPORTEDLY
RECENTLY DISCUSSED SUCH MATTERS.

3. COMMENT: LITGAZ CAN USUALLY BE RELIED UPON TO COME
UP WITH SOME OF THE MORE BLATANTLY OFFENSIVE SOVIET PROPAGANDA
PIECES. THESE TWO ARTICLES, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE BAD EVEN BY ITS
USUAL STANDARDS. IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL ANTI-AMERICAN AND
ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA, THE EDITORS OF LITGAZ WERE PROBABLY
TRYING TO INSINUATE THAT JEWISH DEMONSTRATORS WERE VIOLAT-
ING SACRED SOCIALIST MAY DAY.
TOON

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